

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	:	
Plaintiff	:	
	:	
vs.	:	CRIMINAL NO. 1:CR-04-052
	:	
NATHAN CHARLES GRIGGS,	:	
Defendant	:	

ORDER WITH NOTICE OF  
LIMITATIONS ON FILING OF FUTURE  
MOTIONS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2255

TO THE DEFENDANT:

The court has received your motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Under *United States v. Miller*, 197 F.3d 644 (3d Cir. 1999), the purpose of this notice is to inform you of limitations upon your right to file another motion under section 2255 in the future if your current motion is considered by the court.

The eighth paragraph of section 2255 bars second or successive 2255 motions unless there are exceptional circumstances and the defendant has obtained permission to file another 2255 motion from the appropriate court of appeals. This means that if your current 2255 motion is considered on the merits and rejected, you no longer have the right simply to file another 2255 motion in this court raising other grounds for relief, even if you are attempting to raise grounds that you did not think of before filing the current motion.

Instead, you would have to move in the court of appeals for a certificate allowing you to file that second 2255 motion. Further, the grounds upon which you could rely to obtain that certificate, and proceed with a second 2255 motion, are limited to two extremely rare circumstances: (1) newly discovered evidence, that is, evidence that was not available to you at the time you were convicted; or (2) a new rule of constitutional law that was previously unavailable to you and is made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court.

Because these grounds are so limited, in most cases they will result in the denial of approval to file a second or successive 2255 motion, thereby barring the litigation of grounds that had not been presented in the first 2255 motion.

Thus, you should carefully consider whether the current 2255 motion raises all grounds for relief from your conviction. If you think it may not, you may want to withdraw it before the court considers it. The court will allow you to do this now without prejudice to your right, after you have given the motion more thought, to file another 2255 motion.

If you do decide to withdraw your current motion with the intent of filing an all-inclusive 2255 motion in the future, you are also advised that the sixth paragraph of section 2255 sets forth a one-year statute of limitations for filing a 2255

motion. You should look at the sixth paragraph for when this period starts to run. The paragraph sets forth four starting dates but, generally, the most common starting date for the statute of limitations is the date your conviction became final.

The date your conviction became final depends on the particular procedural history of your case. If you did not take a direct appeal, the period would begin to run 10 days from the date you were sentenced, excluding intermediate Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays. If you did take a direct appeal, but did not apply for certiorari from the Supreme Court, the period would begin to run 90 days after the date the court of appeals entered its judgment. If you did seek certiorari, the period would begin to run from the date the Supreme Court denied certiorari or affirmed the conviction and sentence.

You are advised that if you dismiss the instant motion in order to file an all-inclusive one later, the statute of limitations nonetheless continues to apply. In other words, neither the fact that you filed the current motion, nor the fact that the court permitted you to withdraw it without prejudice to file an all-inclusive one would toll the running of the statute.

The court will grant you thirty days to decide whether to stand on your current motion or to withdraw it so that you can file an all-inclusive 2255 motion.

Accordingly, this 26th day of July, 2007, it is ordered as follows:

1. Defendant is given leave to withdraw the current 2255 motion without prejudice to filing another 2255 motion raising all grounds for relief from his conviction.

2. Defendant is granted 30 days from the date of this order to notify the court of his decision to either: (a) proceed on his current motion, or (b) withdraw it so that he can file an all-inclusive motion. If he fails to notify the court within the 30-day deadline, the court will rule on the current 2255 motion as filed.

3. If Defendant does decide to file an all-inclusive 2255 motion raising all grounds for relief, Defendant must file that motion within the one-year period of limitations for doing so, or it might be dismissed as time-barred.

/s/William W. Caldwell  
William W. Caldwell  
United States District Judge